

EPIC PRAYERS: A 5-WEEK VIRTUAL STUDY

SUMMER

Women's Bible Study

2 CHRONICLES

20:1-30

The Prayer of Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 20: 1-6

¹After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat.

²Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). ³Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard ⁶and said:

“O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.

2 Chronicles 20: 7-10

⁷O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

⁸They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ⁹'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

¹⁰"But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them.

2 Chronicles 20: 11-15

¹¹See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. ¹²O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.”

¹³All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord. ¹⁴Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

¹⁵He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.

2 Chronicles 20: 16-19

¹⁶Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. ¹⁷You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.”

¹⁸Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord. ¹⁹Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the Lord, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.

2 Chronicles 20: 20-22

²⁰Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.” ²¹After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

**“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his love endures forever.”**

²²As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

2 Chronicles 20: 23-26

²³The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

²⁴When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. ²⁵So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. ²⁶On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day.

2 Chronicles 20: 27-30

²⁷Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord had given them cause to rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the Lord with harps and lutes and trumpets.

²⁹The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.



"God delights, not when we
offer Him our strength, but
when we wait for His."

JOHN PIPER

THEIR APPROACH TO PRAYER

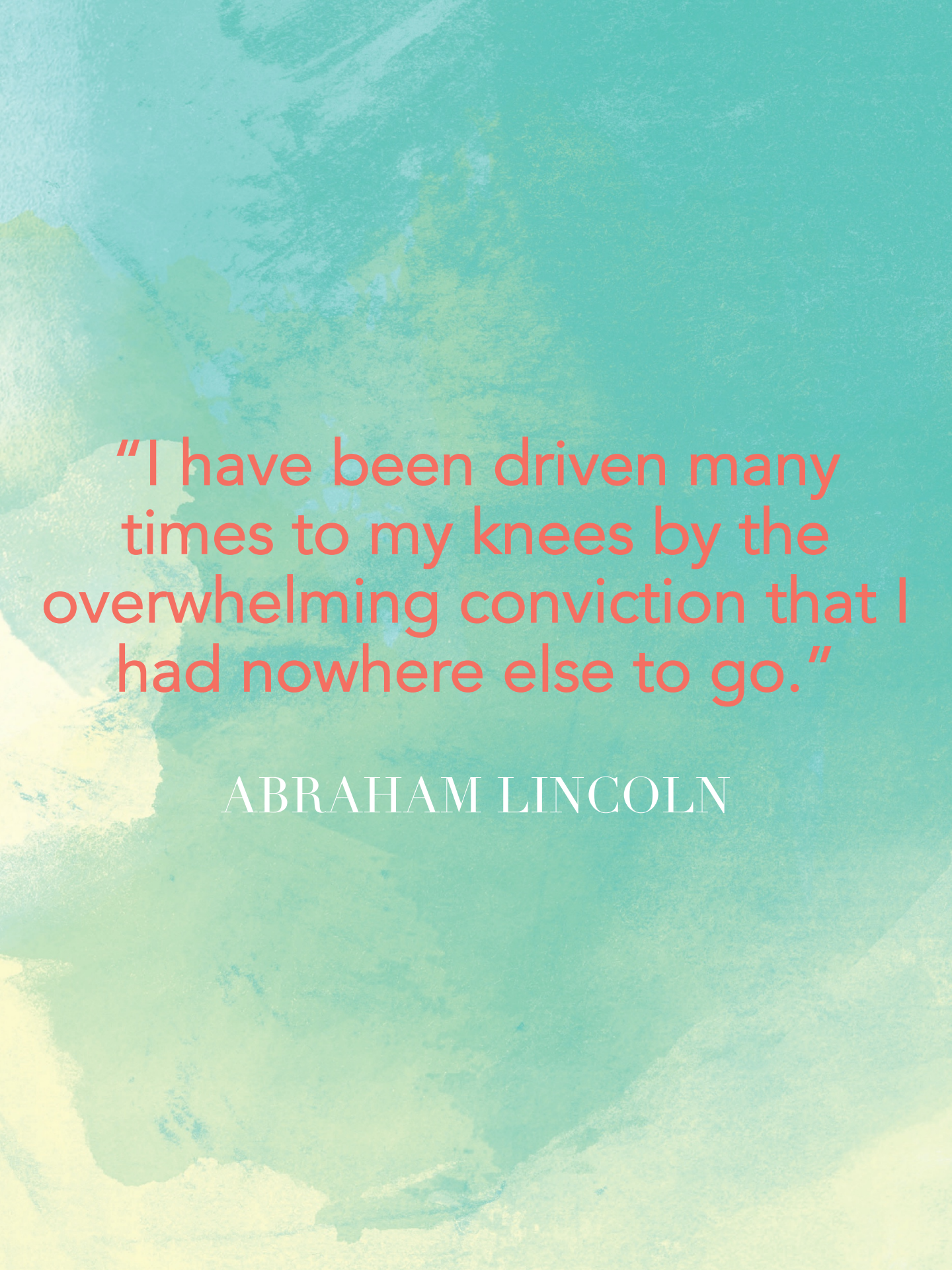
- The attitude with which they pray – they are desperate
- The faith they demonstrate *before* God answers.

JEHOSAPHAT CALLS FOR 3 THINGS

- Fasting
- Assembly
- Prayer

THEY APPEAL TO GOD ON THE BASIS OF:

- Their relationship with Him
- Who God is
- What He has done in the past
- God's reputation
- Their utter helplessness



"I have been driven many
times to my knees by the
overwhelming conviction that I
had nowhere else to go."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE PROGRESSION

- What we see *in* the prayer – absolute dependence on God
- What we see *after* the prayer – absolute trust in God.

FACING OUR ENEMY

- God wants us to experience how He is working on our behalf.
- He wants us to be *spectators* of how He is working in the world.

THEIR RESPONSE TO GOD'S MESSAGE

- Worship
- Obedience
- Faith

WHAT IS ON DISPLAY IN THIS STORY?

- A victory that comes about entirely by God
- Obedience, faith and trust
- Three Assemblies
 - Pray
 - Praise
 - Celebrate what God has done

A BETTER APPROACH IN PRAYER

1. Complete Dependence

- Seek God first
- Begin with who God is
- Assemble to pray and praise
- Express your dependence to God

2. Express faith in God before He answers

- Sing to Him and praise Him
- Overflow with thanksgiving
- Have your own mantra